THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Post and Telegraph Department have a separate pool for allotment of accommodation to their employees. There is no provision for conversion of General Pool accommodation into P&T Pool. However, in exceptional cases mutual exchange of quarters from one pool to another is allowed with the approval of the competent authority.

(d) As no such separate statistics are maintained, information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Patients Suffering from Goitre

2630. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons suffering from Goitre in the country as on 30th June, 1991 State-wise;

(b) whether the goitre has been spreading an-mass in the backward regions of Bihar State;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have issued any direction to the State Government for eradicating the Disease completely;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Goitre is likely to be eradicated completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Based on the random sample survey it is estimated that 74.34 million persons are suffering from various grades of Goitre.

(b) Goitre is a non-communicable disease and is caused by iodine deficiency and environmental factors. and has no direct relationship with the backwardness of a region.

(c) and (d). Under National Goitre Control Programme all the State Governments including Bihar have been advised to issue notification banning the sale of salt other than iodised salt for edible purposes. The Government of Bihar have already issued notification banning the sale on non-iodised salt for edible purposes under the PFA Act w.e.f.1.4.1988.

Government of India is also providing financial assistance to all the States/UTs including Bihar for

(i) Establishment of a Goitre Control Cell.

(ii) For promotion of Health Education Activities.

(iii) Survey @Rs. 10,000/- per district.

(e) Since Goitre is caused by environmental iodise deficiencies it is not possible to indicate the exact time by which Goitre will be completely eradicated. However, regular consumption of iodised salt, which is the easiest, cheapest and proven method of efficiency, will go a long way in prevention and control of Goitre.

[*English*]

"Funds to Cleanse Polluted Rivers"

2631. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: